

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 A-01 NSC-07 AID-20 TRSE-00 ABF-01

FS-01 PER-05 INR-10 /059 W
----- 012008

R 021140Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5970

JCS WASHDC

PDT&TAC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6207

PERSONAL FOR ADMIRAL GAYLER INFO FOR ADMIRAL MOORER AND CPT. FRIES
FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ALLOW, AFIN, EFIN, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE

REF: CINCPAC 292210Z APR 74

1. I FULLY SHARE YOUR DISMAY AT NEWS OF ABOLISHMENT OF
COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR PERSONNEL STATIONED IN KHMER
REPUBLIC. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF MESSAGE I CABLED DEPARTMENT
OF STATE (PHNOM PENH 5519) ON APRIL 18 SETTING FORTH WHAT
I CONSIDERED TO BE VALID CASE FOR COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE.
I URGED THE DEPARTMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION ON THE
BASIS OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THAT MESSAGE. AMONG
OTHER THINGS I ARGUED THAT THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE
COLA WILL CAUSE EQUAL HARDSHIP TO THE 100 OR SO
MILITARY PERSONNEL WHOSE ALLOWANCES HAVE BEEN REDUCED
BY 55 PERCENT. SO FAR I HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY.

2. AS SUGGESTED IN YOUR REFERENCED MESSAGE, I HAVE
INSTRUCTED THIS POST TO PREPARE A REVISED RETAIL PRICE
SCHEDULE. THE BUYING PATTERN QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WAS
NOT DISTRIBUTED TO THE MILITARY PERSONNEL WHEN THE
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LAST SURVEY WAS COMPILED WILL THIS TIME GO TO ALL

AMERICAN PERSONNEL AT THE POST. I HAVE BEEN TOLD IT
WILL TAKE ABOUT ONE MONTH TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY.

3. I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU THAT ENOUGH DEMANDS ARE
BEING MADE ON THE STAMINA AND MORALE OF THE PERSONNEL
AT THIS POST WITHOUT CONTENDING WITH UNJUSTIFIED
FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS. I HAVE THEREFORE SENT A PERSONAL
MESSAGE TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
AND THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASKING THEM
TO EXPLORE WITH THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT THE FEASIBILITY
OF OBTAINING A PREFERENTIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE FOR THE
CAMBODIAN RIEL FOR BOTH U.S. OFFICIAL TRANSACTIONS AND
FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL STATIONED AT THIS POST. (PHNOM PENH
5911 DATED APRIL 16)

THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT PRESENTLY HOLDS THE
EQUIVALENT TO 22 MILLION DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURRENCY
GENERATED FROM PL 480 SALES. AN ADDITIONAL 13 MILLION
DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURRENCY ARE ANTICIPATED TO ACCRUE
TO THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR
74 PL 480 PROGRAMS. IN SHORT, THE U.S. TREASURY
DEPARTMENT HAS AMPLE LOCAL CURRENCY WHICH IS PRESENTLY
PURCHASED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND INDIVIDUAL
EMPLOYEES AT THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE. WHAT I HAVE
SUGGESTED IS THE SALE OF THESE RIELS AT A PREFERENTIAL
RATE. I KNOW THAT OUR EMBASSIES IN CERTAIN OTHER
COUNTRIES HAVE THIS PREFERENTIAL EXCHANGE RATE ARRANGE-
MENT WITH THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND ANYTHING
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO WITH THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
TO OBTAIN AN AFFIRMATIVE REPLY WOULD BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

4. THE STAFF--BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN-- AND I
ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT.

5. WARM REGARDS.
DEAN

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